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their own fortunes, win the day simply by the force of inevitable progress. Some of the dominant characters in the book are of the Quaker persuasion, to which denomination we believe the author belongs, and the pictures of the very day life of this simple and peculiar people, is, certainly, very interesting.

There are some very strong situations in the book, of which the most is made, not in a highly colored melodramatic way, but in the strength of natural and unvarnished simplicity.

The incident of the murder of Drury is strong and telling, the implication by circumstantial evidence of the most unlikely person in the world, and his subsequent acquittal through the agency of a dream, dreamed ten thousand miles away, is well managed, and is perfectly within the range of possibility. It matters not that the theories which support such a possibility are open to doubt, and contrary to common sense, and are opposed by grave and high authorities, authenticated instances to support them, exceptions they may be, cannot be ignored although they may be doubted and disputed.

There are many charming characters in the book, and there are none, whatever may be their eccentricities, of which we do not find the type in our every day life. The work is simply, strongly and elegantly written, and is so well constructed, that the interest of the reader is excited until the close.

COUNTRY QUARTERS. A Love Story. By the Countess of Blessington. T. B. Peterson & Bros., Philadelphia.

The incidents of this Love story, as the title suggests, springs out of the advent of an English Regiment in an Irish town. Lady Blessington, an Irish woman by birth, has not spared her country men or woman, in her delineation of the national character. She has taken the good characteristics with the bad, but she has not failed to make us love the wild impulsive Irish girl with all her faults, which are more of circumstance than heart. Her scenes of Irish social life are broadly and vividly drawn, and have the genuine ring of reality. The story is by no means artfully worked; there are but few complications, and mysteries of a bewildering character there are none: but, nevertheless, it is so well managed, that through the common places of every day life, the interest of the story is sustained without diminution to the end.

Lady Blessington is a somewhat severe censor of her own sex. She presents to us some very hard and unloveable portraits of woman; but we are bound to accept them because we recognize the types and know them to exist. But she has balanced them with some exquisite likenesses of woman, warm, gentle, tender and true, in whom we recognize mother, wife or sister. Her characters are numerous and varied, and they are strongly and vividly marked. They are merely flesh and blood, they are not heroes nor princes; they are simply on a level with life as it is, and the reader will tacitly rejoice in discovering certain traits which are far from heroic in their order, which he acknowledges himself to be possessed of, and which are common to the whole human family, whether it be in the circles of the rich, or in the neighbourhoods of the poor.

There are platitudes and some verbosity in the book, and perhaps, a little too much prominence given to the subordinate details; but the life picture is so true, the individualities are so admirably hit off, and there is so much genuine *vim* in the delineation of the traits of character, that we acknowledge ourselves to have been very much pleased with the story, and strongly interested in the denouement.

OUR MUTUAL FRIEND. Author's Edition. T. B. Peterson & Bros., Philadelphia.

The publishers of the "Author's American Edition of Dicken's" commenced last month the issue of a new serial edition of the works of that distinguished writer. T. B. Peterson & Bros., claim that they, in connection with Harper Bros., publish the only edition of Charles Dicken's works that pays anything to the author. For the privilege of priority of publication, they have paid Mr. Dickens thousands of dollars. For "Our Mutual Friend" alone they paid the author five thousand dollars in gold. This is a liberal business arrangement; just to the author and honorable to the publishers, and cannot be too highly commended.

This edition when completed will contain over five hundred illustrations, by the best English artists. The first volume, which contains "Our Mutual Friend," complete, is a handsome volume, and is a sample of the whole set. It is printed in large type, so that all can read it without difficulty or eye-straining, upon good paper, and the illustrations of the incidents are spirited and full of character.

This edition is calculated for general circulation as the price, one dollar and twenty-five cents, brings it within the reach of all. The second volume will be issued this month, and will contain "David Copperfield," complete.

THE CRESCENT MONTHLY. New Orleans. Wm. Evelyn & Co.

This well conducted magazine, is now in its second volume, and as we understand, meeting with so much success, that it may now be considered as a permanent institution. It contains a large amount of original matter, contributed by some of the best writers of the south, with some selected matter of high character. The contents of the March number are "A Night Adventure on the Hoogly;" "Killed," a charming poem by Matilda Edwards; "The Portrait of Stonewall Jackson;" "Jean Ingelow;" "My old Cham Tom Atherton;" "Peto, the Hungarian Poet;" "Extracts from a Literary Note-book;" "Judith;" "Woodworth;" "The Broken Vase;" "The Brides Secret;" "Literateurs of the South;" "The Conventional Laws of Society;" "A Chapter on Puns;" "The King of Abyssinia;" "A Farewell;" Editorial Notes and Book-Notices, both truly and ably written. We suppose, that as soon as things brighten up in the South, the typographical department will be more worthy of the literary contents.

The telegrapher who announced the departure from Sweden of a Lapland family with their hut, sleigh, and stuffed reindeer, (renne) announced "and stuffed wife," (femme.)

Mons. Litré is dangerously ill.

ADVANTAGES OF CULTIVATING THE FINE ARTS TO A NATION.

Sir M. A. Shee, once President of the Royal Academy, London, speaking on this subject, said:

"It should be the policy of a great nation to be liberal and magnificent; to be free of her rewards, splendid in her establishments, and gorgeous in her public works. These are not the expenses that sap and mine the foundations of public prosperity, that break in on the capital, or lay waste the income of a state; they may be said to arise in her most enlightened views of general advantage; to be among her best and most profitable speculations. They produce large sums of respect from neighbors and competitors, and of patriotic exultation among ourselves. They make men proud of their country, and from this pride, prompt in defending it. They play upon all the chords of generous feeling, elevate us above the animal, and make us triumph in the powers, and attributes of men."

Sir George Beaumont, while advocating the purchase of the Augenstein Collection, says:

"My belief is that the Apollo, the Venus, the Lascion, &c., are worth many thousands a year to the country that possesses them." When Parliament was discussing the propriety of giving £60,000 for the collection, he said "Buy this collection of pictures for the nation, and I will give you mine." And this he did, not as a bequest, but transferred them at once, only reserving one small gem, a household god, which he retained till his death. This was a small landscape by Claude, with figures representing Hagar and her Child, and he was so much attached to it that he carried it with him as a constant traveling companion. The value of this collection is \$350,000.

MUSICAL GOSSIP.

A grand lyrical and symphonic work by Cuniewicz, called "la Captivité Babylonienne," was performed at Lemberg, last month. It has ten parts or divisions, and when directed by the author, on that occasion, is said to have obtained a legitimate success.

The conservatory of music, proposed at St. Petersburg under A. Rubenstein's direction is reported as prospering. The Emperor has granted it a palace and other facilities intended to promote its general utility.

Stockhausen gives up the direction of Hamburg's Philharmonic concerts for some unexplained cause.

The severe influenza which has prevailed in Berlin and other German cities, during this winter affected several operatic artists seriously.

De Murska, Bettelheim, Krauss, Dustmann and Ferenczy—a tenor—are reported as disabled by it from performance at present.

Wachtel is now reported as renewing his engagement at Berlin's Royal Opera for the extensive term of five years with liberal allowance of salary and vacation. The report that he intended leaving Berlin for Paris and subsequently for America is now declared to be premature.

At Florence in La Pergola they have given "Faust" in a satisfactory manner, and Meyerbeer's "Dinorah" is contemplated with Mlle Maesen from Le Lyrique as the heroine. Carlotta Patti made a sensation there in concert performance with Ascher's waltz and Lescaut's comic song, but did not attain the exalted praise which previous report had accorded her in other cities.